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LETTER DATED 28 APRIL 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the following conclusions which were issued on 26 April 1999 (see attached copies in French and in English):

- Conclusions of the Council (General Affairs) of the European Union on the Kosovo crisis;

- Declaration of the Council (General Affairs) of the European Union on Romania and Bulgaria.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gerhard Walter HENZE
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Germany to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Conclusions of the Council of the European Union on the crisis in Kosovo

The Council recalled its conclusions of 8 April and expressed its strong and continuing support for maximum pressure from the international community on President Milosevic and his regime to stop their brutal campaign of forced deportation, torture and murder in Kosovo and accept the international community's five demands. It also reaffirmed the European Union's commitment to contribute fully to relieving the fate of the hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons caused by President Milosevic's policy. The Council also considered the regional implications of the crisis. In particular the Council:

- Commended the efforts of the international humanitarian organizations, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which the European Union and its members are supporting in every possible way;

- Welcomed the Commission's commitment to the speedy implementation of the Council decision of 8 April, on the disbursement of 150 million euros of European Community assistance for refugee relief and of 100 million euros budget support for the refugee-related expenses of countries in the region;

- Following the adoption of a common position imposing on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia a ban on the delivery of petroleum and petroleum products, reached a political agreement today with a view of its formal entry into force no later than Friday, 30 April 1999. In this context the Council welcomed the intention of associated countries to joint the European Union's oil embargo, and invited third countries to follow suit.

- Agreed to extend the existing European Union sanctions regime and welcomed the Commission's intention to introduce proposals, on the basis of existing common positions where appropriate. The measures to be speedily adopted include:

  - A travel ban on President Milosevic, his family, all Ministers/ senior officials of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbian Governments, and on persons, included in a specific list, close to the regime whose activities support President Milosevic;

  - Extension of the scope of the freeze of funds held abroad by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbian Governments to cover individuals associated with President Milosevic and companies controlled by, or acting on behalf of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbian Governments;

- Prohibition of the provision of export finance by the private sector further to the existing moratorium on Government-financed export credits set out in Common Position 98/240 of 19 March 1998;

- Extension of the investment ban set out in Council Regulation (EC) No. 1607/98;

- Widening the scope of the prohibition on the export of equipment for internal repression and its extension to include goods, service, technology and equipment for the purpose of restoring/ repairing assets damaged in airstrikes;

- Encouragement to Member States and sporting organizations not to organize international sporting events with the participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

- A comprehensive flight ban between the territory of the European Union and that of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

- Welcomed the determination of NATO, as expressed in the statement on Kosovo issued by the Washington Summit, to achieve the aims and objectives of the international community;

- Emphasized the role of the Security Council for a political settlement of the Kosovo crisis and the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

- Extended an invitation to Ibrahim Rugova to address the next session of the General Affairs Council and welcomed the Presidency's intention to invite him and his family to Bonn at an earlier date;

- Reiterated its strong support for the democratically elected Government of Montenegro. The Council condemned Belgrade's efforts to undermine its authority and destabilize the Republic. The European Union recalled the assistance it has already provided to Montenegro to help address the problems it faces as a result of the humanitarian catastrophe in Kosovo, and stressed the importance it attaches to the rapid disbursement of assistance, whether from the European Community or from other international agencies. The European Union will additionally consider every opportunity to help Montenegro bear the burdens imposed upon it by the conflict in Kosovo, especially through further financial and economic support. In this regard, the Council welcomed the Commission's measures to assist the Montenegrin economy and instructed its competent bodies to explore the scope for a joint action under the common foreign and security policy support of the democratically elected Government;

- Considered the position of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and of Albania during the current crisis. It fully recognized the dramatically increased burdens which had been placed on these neighbouring States as a result of ethnic cleansing carried out in

Kosovo by President Milosevic's regime. The Council commended the policy of moderation which the Governments of the two countries have been pursuing, and expressed its profound appreciation of the sacrifices which they have made in dealing with the huge influx of refugees from Kosovo in recent weeks. The Council agreed that the policies being pursued by the two Governments continued to constitute an essential contribution to the security and stability of the region as a whole, and to the wider efforts of the international community to ensure a political settlement which would allow all refugees to return in complete security to Kosovo;

- Stressed the particular importance of the European Union's relationship with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and with Albania. The Council looked forward to the political dialogue meetings at ministerial level between the two countries and the European Union Troika on 27 April. These will provide an important opportunity to discuss in detail our common approach in addressing the present crisis, and to review the vital contribution which these two countries are making. The Council also welcomed the intention of the European Commission to examine urgently, in the context of the regional approach and the European Union contribution to a future stability pact, the upgrading of the contractual relations between the European Union and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and between the European Union and Albania, towards an Association Agreement;

- Expressed its determination, in a spirit of solidarity, to continue to provide the necessary financial and economic assistance to the two countries to help them address the burdens imposed by the present crisis in the region, noting once again the assistance which the European Union and its member States had already provided;

- Looked forward to the adoption of joint statements with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania on the occasion of tomorrow's political dialogue meetings at ministerial level;

- Invited the Commission to report, as soon as possible, on the economic consequences of the crisis on the countries most affected in the region;

- Adopted the appended statement in support of Bulgaria and Romania.

The Council agreed to start the preparation of a stability pact for south-eastern Europe and welcomed the endorsement of the proposed stability pact by the international community. Work will now be carried forward urgently within the European Union, with the relevant international organizations and regional initiatives, and in particular with the regional States concerned, with a view to the Conference on South-Eastern Europe which will be convened by the European Union at Bonn on 27 May 1999. In this context, the Council also welcomed the forthcoming coordination meeting of relevant international organizations and initiatives at Vienna on 7 May 1999. The stability pact will give all countries

in the Balkans region a concrete perspective of stability and integration in Euro-Atlantic structures.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Council discussed the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the presence of the High Representative, Carlos Westendorp, and supported his actions to ensure full respect for the Dayton/Paris Peace Agreements. Recognizing the importance of keeping Bosnia and Herzegovina out of the Kosovo conflict, the Council noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina too shared in the perspective of European integration in accordance with the European Union's regional approach.

Appendix

Statement by the Council of the European Union on Bulgaria and Romania

1. The present crisis in the western Balkans highlights the contribution of Bulgaria and Romania, two associate States, to stability in the wider region. The current situation imposes heavy burdens on these countries. The Governments are to be commended for their positive responses to these challenges.

2. The European Union underlines the special relations it enjoys with Bulgaria and Romania by virtue of their participation in the European Union accession process reflected in the European Agreements which record the perspective of their membership of the Union. The European Union appreciates the support which Bulgaria and Romania have provided for the international community's actions in Kosovo in defence of the basic principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms, to which the European Union, Bulgaria and Romania together adhere. It furthermore recognizes challenges and difficulties which the Governments and citizens of Bulgaria and Romania are facing.

3. In recognition of these specific considerations, the Council:

- Notes that these countries have consistently accepted the European Union's invitations to align themselves with the declarations, joint actions and common positions adopted within the framework of the common foreign and security policy, and have put into effect the measures contained in them. The Council believes that further steps to associate them with the policies of the European Union on the Western Balkans should be examined within the proposed European Union common strategy on the western Balkans and the elaboration of the stability pact for south-eastern Europe.

- Acknowledges the contribution made by Bulgaria and Romania to the humanitarian effort. The Council asked its relevant bodies to ensure that, in determining the overall level of assistance, account be taken of the specific needs and burdens generated by the present crisis, and notes with satisfaction that the international financial institutions are taking a similar approach. The European Union actions will be focused on relieving the economic and social burden resulting from the Kosovo crisis and by doing so will at the same time bring the countries concerned into a better position to bear their humanitarian responsibilities.

- In view of its decisions taken on 23 April concerning the ban on the delivery of petroleum and petroleum products to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as the other sanctions, welcomes the Commission's intention to provide whatever additional technical help is necessary to Bulgaria nd Romania to assist them in aligning their legislation with that of the Community. The Council also calls upon the national administrations of the member States to provide appropriate advice and expertise on dealing with flows of refugees.

4. The Council appeals to private investors not to be discouraged from investing in these two countries despite the proximity of armed conflict. In this context, the Council recalls the valuable contribution which Bulgaria and Romania have made to the stability of the region, both individually and through their involvement in international organizations and by their participation in various regional initiatives. The Council welcomes the efforts and initiatives undertaken by Bulgaria and Romania, bilaterally and within regional forums, to contribute to a political solution of the crisis.